

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6556

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

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E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDIP, PFOR, FR, KU

SUBJECT: JOSE PAOLI, NEW FRENCH AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT

1. JOSE PAOLI, CURRENTLY DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR ALGERIAN AFFAIRS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY'S BUREAU FOR NORTH AFRICA AND THE LEVANT, HAS BEEN NAMED AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT' REPLACING PAUL CARTON. PAOLI, 50, BORN IN THE VOSGES BUT THE GRANDSON OF A CORSICAN SHEPHERD, ENTERED THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS AFTER WARTIME ARMY SERVICE. AFTER COMPLETING TRAINING PROGRAMS IN BAGDAD AND AMMAN, HE WAS ASSIGNED FIRST TO THE FRENCH EMBASSY IN CAIRO (1951-54) AND LATER IN DAMASCUS (1954-56). AFTER A TOUR IN THE QUAI'S BUREAU FOR AFRICAN AND LEVANTINE AFFAIRS, PAOLI SERVED IN MOSCOW (1958-61) AND AS A FIRST SECRETARY IN WASHINGTON (1961-64). RETURNING TO THE ARAB WORLD, HE BECAME SECOND COUNSELOR IN RABAT (1964-67) AND THEN IN TRIPOLI (1967-70). HE HAS BEEN ASSIGNED TO THE QUAI SINCE 1970. PAOLI IS ONE OF THE QUAI'S LEADING ARABISTS, BUT CLAIMS TO BE LESS THAN FLUENT IN ARABIC. HIS LONG TOUR/IN ALGERIAN AFFAIRS HAS PROBABLY CONTRIBUTED TO HIS OBVIOUS FEELING THAT THE ALGERIANS ARE VERY DIFFICULT TO DEAL WITH.

2. THE PAOLI FAMILY IS CLOSE-KNIT AND AFFECTIONATE; THEY ENTERTAIN IN A SIMPLE, RATHER AMERICAN MANNER AND HIS WIFE UPHOLDS THE REPUTATION OF FRENCH CUISINE. PAOLI'S ENGLISH IS MEDIOCRE BUT HIS WIFE SPEAKS FLUENTLY.

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THEY BOTH APPEAR TO HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF THEIR STAY IN

WASHINGTON, AND IN KUWAIT WOULD DOUBTLESS WELCOME
INVITATIONS FROM AMERICANS. HE HAS BEEN RELAXED AND
FAIRLY FORTHCOMING WITH PARIS EMBASSY OFFICERS.
PAOLI'S GOOD POLITICAL JUDGMENT AND RELATIVE OPENNESS
SHOULD MAKE HIM A GOOD CONTACT.
RUSH

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